

NECSC Conference Presentations
Bowdoin College, Brunswick, Maine
October 8 & 9, 2007
www.bowdoin.edu/conferences/necsc

Session I

Monday, October 8 3:30-5:00 pm

Financing Sustainability

"Show Me the Money". Marian Brown, Ithaca College
Searles 315

How do you create a shared institutional understanding of and support for campus sustainability? How can you create "coalitions of the willing" to support curriculum development, campus operational modifications, and community outreach? What do each of these institutional constituencies need and how can you help them achieve their goals? What do YOU need as a coordinator to enable your campus sustainability activities? Where are the available resources you can tap into? What are some strategies to enlist institutional support for sharing of resources? How can you convince your institutional leaders to "show you the money"?

In this session, you will learn:

- a working definition of "sustainability" that engages multiple sectors of your community;
- what motivates and supports faculty to incorporate sustainability principles in their courses;
- what motivates and supports operational managers to make more sustainable decisions;
- how can you most effectively communicate your efforts within your campus and externally;
- the most appropriate role of a coordinator to facilitate campus sustainability;
- what resources you need the most; and
- how you can craft the best case possible to convince your administration to provide you with the support you need.

Campus Visioning and Planning

Comparing Master Planning on Different Campuses. William Colehower, MIT and Millard Dority, College of the Atlantic
Searles 215

For generations, planners and architects working for colleges and universities have been entrusted with the admirable task of developing forward thinking visions for the composition and organization of campuses into documents called master plans. These master plans embody many creative ideas and most often address strategies for the evolution of buildings, landscape, roads, mechanical and electrical systems to meet lofty objectives of the institution.

Today, campus planners, more than ever, are seen as stewards of their campuses as well as the earthly resources they consume. Our master plans must inspire both great design and an unwavering sense of responsibility for resource conservation and protection of the environment.

This interactive discussion will look at the practice of campus planning and highlight the strategies for successful integration of principles, policies and recommendations to advance sustainable planning and design practices. The presenters will draw upon case study examples from small and large campuses to highlight key discussion points and facilitate dialogue among participants.

Food Footprint

Food. Education. Waste. Soup to Nuts systemic change in Dining Services at Keene State College. Mary Jensen, Keene State College, NH & Food Miles with Suzanne Morse, COA Searles 217

Mary Jensen:

This workshop will help attendees understand how to affect system changes within an organization and with an organizations' relationship with a contract vendor. Attendees will also see how collaboration with disparate groups over a shared topic can lead to greater overall understanding and practice of Sustainability on campus. What started as a look at the food waste at the dining commons has morphed into a project to look at food, food education, academic programs, athletic programs and promoting systemic changes in student habits.

Suzanne Morse:

Food Miles Epiphinies: How can colleges and universities make the most of them?

The number of miles between the field and the fork can be immense and these estimates can be a useful tool for gaining insight into our current food system as well as for assessing the ecological and social impact of our most basic need, to eat. At College of the Atlantic we have had two food systems courses that have also served to educate students, staff, faculty, and trustees. In the first course we started with trying to get a rich picture of how we eat and the forces that shape decisions within and beyond the institution. In the second course we focused on the development of a mission statement for the kitchen and benchmarks that might be used for self-monitoring purchasing practices. In this presentation, I briefly present some of the insights from this work and then explore some of the strengths, weaknesses and opportunities of a local food system approach.

Power without Pollution

Energy Management 101: A Primer for Campus Sustainability Professionals. Bill Leahy, ECSU and Rich Miller, University of Connecticut Searles 223

Increasingly, trends in campus sustainability call for a better understanding of energy issues beyond projects emphasizing energy and water conservation outreach to students, faculty and staff. The high cost of energy combined with a sharp focus on campus commitments to address global warming by reducing carbon footprints, such as the American College & University's President's Climate Commitment, have heightened the need for environmental sustainability professionals to be integral to their institution's energy management decision-making process. Whether it's planning, procurement or project management, campus sustainability professionals should be involved in matters related to energy efficiency, load management, demand response, distributed generation, renewable energy, alternative fuels, green building standards and trading of credits and offsets. This session is designed to give you, the campus sustainability professional, an overview of these energy-related essentials so that you can compare the economic and environmental costs and benefits of various energy and GHG-reduction strategies and help your campus make the best decisions.

It's About People

From Ideas to Implementation: Beginning Anecdotes from Bowdoin and Yale. Keisha Payson, Bowdoin College and Julie Newman, Yale University. Searles 213

Rome was not built in a day! Yes, an old cliché, but a good reminder that creating a culture on campus that values the principles of sustainability doesn't happen overnight. This session is geared for sustainability professionals and members of campus environmental committees that are starting up comprehensive campus sustainability programs. What common roadblocks do we face and how might we use them to our advantage? How can we set aside those issues we can't control and focus on a pathway toward a sustainable campus? Bowdoin College's Sustainability

Coordinator, Keisha Payson, will lead a discussion on challenges she has faced in prioritizing her work and building constituencies on campuses. And most importantly, how she learned to stop beating herself up for progress that sometimes seems slow and daunting! Julie Newman, Yale's Sustainability Director, will share her experience building sustainability programs at two different universities.

Making Powerful Connections

Tuesday, October 9th 9:00-10:00 am

Main Lounge, Moulton Union

Norman Willard, US EPA “Climate Change News”

Ten minutes on regional (Regional Greenhouse Gas Inventory - RGGI, New England Governors/Eastern Canadian Premiers Climate Action Plan), state and local and national (Supreme Court, Congress, EPA) and international (International Panel on Climate Change 2007 reports- IPCC) climate change activity of interest to the college and university community.

Kurt Adams, Maine PUC

Session II

Tuesday, October 9th 10:15-11:45 am

Financing Sustainability

Financing Mechanisms (ESCOs and Performance Contracts). John DiModica, Johnson Controls Searles 213

An energy efficiency performance contract is a contract to perform energy-related services between a service provider (performance contractor or energy services company - ESCO) and a college or university. The scope of work may include the installation of equipment designed to reduce energy costs, or other services designed to reduce the college or university's energy and operational costs, or both. Under the terms of a performance contract, a performance contractor or ESCO may also offer the college or university a guarantee that the cost to provide specified equipment upgrades and services will not exceed an amount equal to the energy costs saved by the college or university over a specified period or contract term. As a result, these contracts are typically considered cash-flow positive or neutral and therefore of considerable value to the ability of institutions to provide necessary upgrades to infrastructure from non-capital funding sources.

Campus Visioning and Planning

Seeing Things as Whole: A Vision of Campus Sustainability in 2020. Tom Kelly, University of New Hampshire Searles 223

This presentation will present an integrated vision of campus sustainability in 2020 based on the Sustainable Learning Community model being developed at the University of New Hampshire. The presentation will use Apple's Keynote to share concrete project examples as well as the conceptual and theoretical framework that has been developed to guide the integration of these and other projects. These projects are integrated under the four core functions of university life - curriculum, operations, research and engagement (CORE) - as they relate to the health and integrity of four key interacting systems that sustain our quality of life and regional identity - our climate and energy system, ecological system, food system, and cultural system. The Sustainable Learning Community framework and approach recognize that by 2020 campus sustainability must purposefully reorder the intricate web of ecological and cultural relations that comprise the institutional and community life of the university.

The presentation will draw from ten years of work on sustainability at UNH and will touch upon all six topics identified by the Planning Committee in its call for presenters. Examples of projects that will be referenced include the development of a novel greenhouse gas inventory tool for campuses, a unique landfill gas power project, the establishment of the first organic research dairy farm at a university in the US, a dual major in EcoGastronomy, holistic campus master planning that includes the development of public art guidelines and a sustainable landscape master plan. These and other specific projects will be situated within the Sustainable Learning Community framework to emphasize their cumulative contribution to a fully integrated campus culture of sustainability.

The University of New Hampshire University Office of Sustainability (UOS) was established in 1997 with a multi-million dollar endowment from an alumnus to develop a university-wide education program linking sustainability to community life. All initiatives involve collaboration with faculty, staff and students as well as local, regional, national and in some cases international partners.

Food Footprint

Panel of Maine Dining Service Leaders: Joe Klaus, Assistant Director of Dining Services, Colby College, Christine Schwartz, Director of Dining Services Bates College, Mary Lou Kennedy, Director of Dining and Bookstore Services, Bowdoin Searles 315

A core principle of many Maine colleges and universities is a commitment to sustainability. In this session, we will highlight key sustainability initiatives at three colleges in Maine.

Christine Schwartz from Bates College will discuss how they reduced the amount of waste being sent to the landfill 83% by employing a holistic approach to waste management. This approach not only provided additional opportunities to partner with the local community and an educational opportunity for those within the "Bates Bubble" on environmental stewardship but equally as important has decreased the financial commitment needed for waste removal.

At Bowdoin College, Mary Lou Kennedy will explain how over the past three years, their school has developed two certified organic gardens. She will share how the seeds of a student idea nourished with a \$500 grant, passion, volunteer labor, community outreach and a business plan captured the attention and support of the College and allowed it to become "institutionalized".

At Colby College, education has been a cornerstone of all the dining services greening efforts. Joe Klaus will discuss Sodexo's environmental program. This involves tailoring all programs to have benefits beyond the institution and into the future --from working with distributors to supply more local product, encouraging students to carry reusable beverage mugs, and reducing food waste, education is always integrated into the project.

Power without Pollution

Exploring Sustainable Biomass Combined Heat and Power. Presentation by Chris Recchia, Executive Director of Biomass Energy Center.
Searles 215

It's About People

Mechanisms for Engaging Students in Campus Sustainability. Panel discussion with Bob Ferretti, Yale, Jack Byrne, Middlebury College and Christina Erickson, University of Vermont
Searles 217

Students play an integral role in creating a sustainable campus. This panel presentation will critically analyze an array of mechanisms that have been developed to engage students in campus sustainability efforts as well as explore the leverage students have in affecting change.

Traditionally, student groups were the only formal entity on a campus pursuing environmental change. Now that many colleges and universities have developed, or are developing, sustainability offices, the role of student groups continues to evolve. This discussion will compare and contrast established student outreach programs. The presentation will also touch upon some of the challenges faced by creating a student organization that is used for outreach and considered to be linked to the 'administration'. Peer-to-peer education programs are a popular venue for sustainable living education and outreach, and are found both at the University of Vermont and Yale University. Christina Erickson will present on her recent research which looks at these types of programs across the United States and Canada.

Other mechanisms have been established or are being developed to engage students. For example, Yale University, through the *Student Sustainability Forum* and *Sustainably Thinking*, invites students to participate in an open dialogue, to share ideas, and to coordinate campaigns. At Middlebury College students have had a strong voice in the dialogue and the development of policy and practices related to issues of sustainability. Recently, the College adopted a new goal regarding carbon reduction to help address the climate change issue. Jack Byrne will present an overview of the process leading up to the Middlebury Trustees resolution to bring the college to carbon neutrality by 2016. The presentation will also focus on role that students played and the dynamics of creating a strategy that provided Trustees with enough confidence to support carbon neutrality. He will also discuss how students engaged a wider circle of other students, faculty and staff.

Session III

Tuesday, October 9th 1:15-2:15 pm

Financing Sustainability

Energy Projects in Process. Presentation on the financial aspects of energy projects. Jack Byrne, Middlebury College, Andy Griffiths, College of the Atlantic
Searles 215

The Cambridge Energy Alliance (www.cambridgeenergyalliance.org) is a non-profit organization formed in partnership with the City of Cambridge and the Kendall Foundation to create and administer a \$100 million cross-sector energy conservation initiative. Its goal is to implement efficiencies which will reduce the peak electricity usage by 15% and energy consumption by 10% across the city of Cambridge, Massachusetts. It has been hailed as a timely and ambitious model for addressing our energy conservation needs. This presentation will review how this project got launched, how partnerships were formed, the financial model and the current state of progress

Campus Visioning and Planning

Transportation Planning. KR (Deac) Decarreau, University of Vermont
Searles 217

Transportation Planning, once solely the task of Federal, State and local governments, is now encountering system level problems that simply cannot be solved by building more infrastructure. The future of transportation lies, at least in part, in alternate modes of travel and new financing methods to deal with the ever increasing mobile society. Since the problem was created by a large system, with sociological roots as well as technological, the answer cannot be found by traditional methods. Simply put, individual's choice in transportation to work has the biggest impact on the infrastructure. Given that, employers must step up to the plate as partners in the search for a solution. This presentation looks at how Colleges and Universities can lead the way in demand management through parking.

Food Footprint

Greening the Campus through Humane Sustainable Food Systems. Rick Clugston, University Leaders for a Sustainable Future, Tom Kelly, University of New Hampshire and Tim Galarneau, University of California at Santa Cruz
Searles 223

College campuses are responding to the sustainability challenge as they link teaching, research, and campus engagement to focus on their food systems. With campuses spending over \$4 billion each year on food there is a growing movement by stakeholders to address the impacts of what they consume by shifting practices. At present over 300 institutions have college farms, fair trade initiatives, farm-to-college programs, and green dining initiatives seeking energy and water conservation measures. After outlining structural problems with our current food system, this session will present initiatives from across the country that are responding with policy, programs, and process to establish food systems that emphasize humane, local, environmentally friendly, and socially responsible initiatives.

The Office of Sustainability at the University of New Hampshire is an endowed program that integrates sustainability into the university's land grant mission. The Food and Society initiative has facilitated critical investments in faculty positions, research priorities and infrastructure that support teaching, research and extension in organic agriculture, sustainable food enterprises, nutrition, and local/regional food procurement.

The University of California is implementing sustainable food system initiatives across the state, bridging academic research, undergraduate experiential learning, and community partnerships. Strategies have led to the successful integration of sustainability in food services and include procurement and distribution, waste reduction and energy saving initiatives, and innovative curriculum.

To complement and support emergent campus programs the Association of University Leaders for a Sustainable Future is launching a humane sustainable food initiative for higher education which will:

1. Educate about food and sustainability
2. Strengthen policies and practices which support more locally based, worker supportive, organic, humane, and fairly traded food
3. Ensure high standards for farm animal welfare in agriculture. ULSF is an active stakeholder in the nationwide "Real Food Challenge" in which campuses are increasing sustainable food consumption to 10% in the next five years through dynamic partnerships and on the ground problem-solving.

Come prepared to learn of processes to engage your institution that incorporate students, staff, faculty, and interested stakeholders in collaboration and goal focused development for shifting your campus toward greater sustainable food procurement.

Power without Pollution

Pathways to Carbon Neutrality: Definitions and Challenges. Tom Kimmerer, AASHE.
Searles 315

It's About People

Engaging Faculty and Greening the Curriculum. Sandy Wachholz, University of Southern Maine and Fred Loxson, Eastern Connecticut State University
Searles 213

Sandy Wachholz:

The Casco Bay Project at USM offers workshops to encourage faculty in all disciplines to address environmental sustainability issues in their teaching. The goals of the project are to 1) enhance faculty and student understanding of the connections between human communities and the natural world, 2) produce graduates who contribute to the social, environmental, and economic welfare of local and global communities, and 3) help create a campus that models the principles of sustainability. This session will discuss the successes, challenges, and future goals of the Casco Bay Project.

Fred Loxson:

Eastern Connecticut State University is committed to developing a green campus with a green curriculum. We demonstrate this commitment through our Sustainable Energy Studies academic program, the Institute for Sustainable Energy, an endowed professorship in Sustainable Energy Studies, LEED certified buildings, our President's commitment to sustainability goals, a strong recycling program, and several renewable energy and energy conservation projects. We are engaging faculty through their participation in the sustainable energy studies minor, the development of first year program teaching clusters, curriculum development workshops for faculty, and support for new disciplinary courses related to sustainability. We also engage many departments through informal educational activities such as lectures, video presentations, and other activities associated with Earth Day. Other faculty members are involved with this campus greening effort through the campus greening committee. In this presentation, we will describe the current status of faculty engagement and our plans for increasing faculty participation.